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3 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT: Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 5 March 1970

Item 1 Watch Report

Draft by the Watch Committee to be circulated for USIB approval;
Sponsor - General Cushman

Item 2 NIE on Soviet Policies in the Middle East and Mediterranean Area

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB approval;
Sponsor - Mr. Smith

This regularly scheduled estimate was requested in November by General Bennett, on behalf of CINCEUR. Although the request was that it only be updated, this paper reflects BNE's judgement that recent developments required an entirely new estimate. Emphasis is placed on an examination of alternative policies facing the Soviets in the Arab-Israeli conflict and also considers four major contingencies which might involve the actual use of Soviet military power in the area: (1) escalating Arab-Israeli hostilities (paras. 41-48); (2) all-out Arab-Israeli war (paras. 49-51); (3) internal crises in an area state in which Soviet interests were involved (paras. 52-53); and (4) general war involving both the US and the USSR (paras. 54-55).

Following thorough and detailed discussions, there are no reservations or dissents at the USIB Representatives level, and BNE does not anticipate any at USIB. The importance and timely nature of the subject, however, as well as the fact that NSSM-90 on the Mediterranean is currently being prepared, may generate discussion of its contents and purposes at USIB.

[Redacted Signature]

Executive Secretary, USIB

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